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almost perfect. The book is a distinct addition to ornithology and a much needed guide to the art of bird photography.—L. J.

Proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union.

In the distribution of this collection of papers the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union has vindicated its right to exist. Its members are not content to stop with a complete list of the birds of their state, but are engaged in the study of habits and characteristics. Their object is to advance our knowledge of birds along all lines.

In the President's Address, "Ornithology in Nebraska," Prof. Lawrence Bruner makes a strong plea for the protection of the birds by the sure method of introducing bird studies into the public schools of the state. There follow four papers which partake of the nature of local lists with annotations. The first, "A Twenty-three Years' Record Kept by Dr. A. L. Child of Plattsmouth, Neb.," by Dr. R. H. Wolcott; "Additional Notes and Observation on the Birds of Northern Nebraska," by Rev. J. M. Bates; "The Bird Fauna of the Salt Basin, Near Lincoln," by Mr. J. S. Hunter; "Some Bird Notes from the Upper Elkhorn," by Mr. Merritt Cary. "Some Notes on the Nesting of the Raptores of Otoe County, Nebraska," by Mr. M. A. Carriker, Jr., treats of the ten species which are known to the author to breed in the state. "How to Popularize Ornithology," by Mr. Wilson Tout, is discussed from the standpoint of a teacher, urging the importance of education as a means of saving the birds from wanton destruction and of bringing before the people the debt we owe to the birds. In making "A Plea for the English Sparrow," Mr. Lawrence Skow, a native of Denmark, endeavors to show that the Sparrow has a distinct right to life and unlimited increase. Not many Americans will agree with Mr. Skow on this point. The last paper, "Suggestions as to an Accurate and Uniform Method of Recording Observations," by R. H. Wolcott, will be read with much interest by all field students of the birds. The author would give absolute values to the terms commonly used—abundant, common, etc.—thus securing absolute uniformity in observations from all field workers. It is a step in the right direction. Such a scheme, however, while a boon to the earnest bird student, would scarcely be

tolerated by the casual observer who wished to get the most enjoyment with the least effort from bird study. But we are not concerned about that class of people. It seems to us that a species cannot well be more than abundant, and that therefore the qualifying adjective "very" might well be omitted. Before any such scheme can be put into practical use it needs to be carefully tested by a series of field studies by two persons working side by side, the one counting the birds and tabulating the results according to this scheme, the other taking notes upon the general impression made by the numbers, but counting the individuals seen to be avoided. That is to say, the scheme should be, as far as possible, shorn of its arbitrariness by making it as natural as possible. The result would probably be that different values would be given to the large birds than to the small ones. Thus, five Bald Eagles to the mile would be abundant, while that number of Vesper Sparrows to the mile would be only common. Dr. Wolcott is to be highly commended for his efforts to bring about uniformity in the field work of ornithologists.—L. J.

American Monthly Microscopical Journal. Vol. XXI, Nos. 2, 4, 5.

Bird-Lore. Vol. II, Nos. 1, 2, 3.

Birds and All Nature. Vol. IV, No. 5; Vol. VII, Nos.

Bittern, The. Vol. I, No. 1.

1, 2, 4, 5.

Book Reviews. Vol. VII, No. 10; Vol. VIII, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Bulletin 109. Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station.

Bulletin 47-50. Pennsylvania State College Agricultural Experiment Station.

Bulletin of the Wisconsin Natural History Society. Vol. I (new series), Nos. 1, 2.

Condor, The. Vol. II, Nos. 1, 2, 3.

Cornell Nature Study Quarterly. Nos. 2, 3.

Entomological Student, The. Vol. I, No. 1.

Farm Student's Review. Vol. V, No. 1.

Fern Bulletin, The. Vol. VIII, Nos. 1, 2.